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# IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS

IN THE

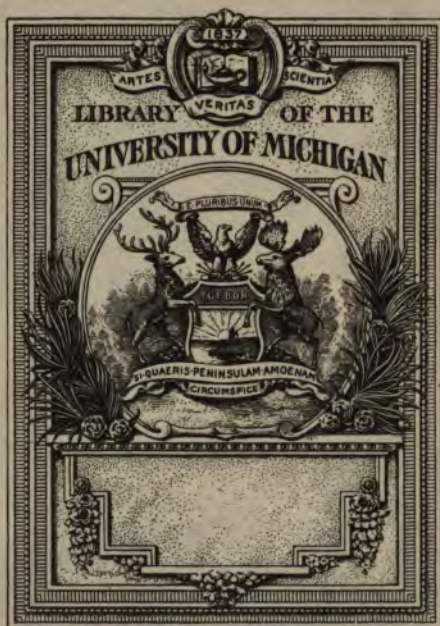
## AMERICAN COLONIES 1640-1775

WITH A CONTINUATION OF THE SUBJECT  
DURING AND AFTER THE WAR  
OF THE REVOLUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

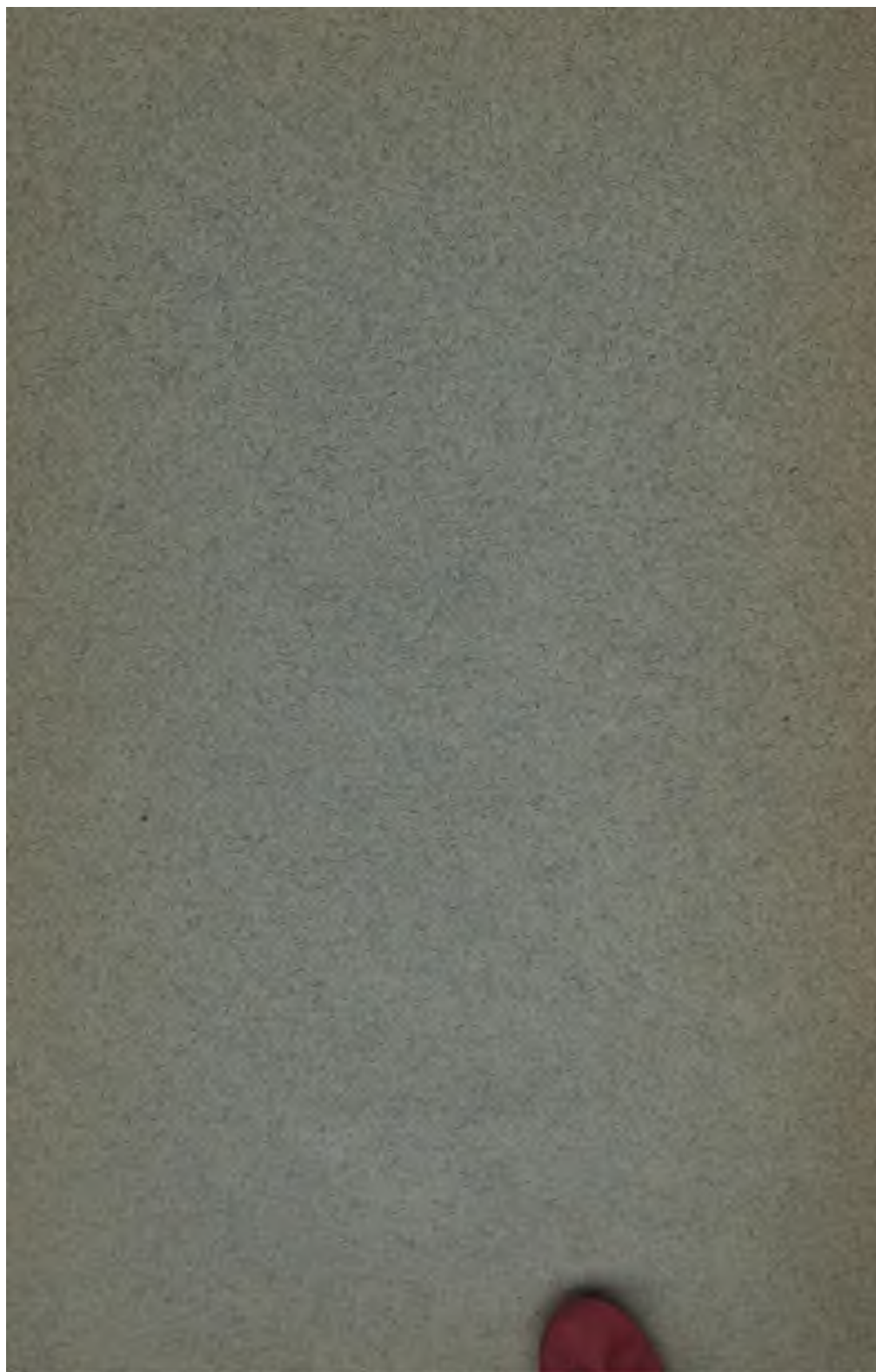
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1898



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IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS

IN THE

AMERICAN COLONIES, 1640-1775

WITH A

CONTINUATION OF THE SUBJECT DURING AND AFTER  
THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

BY

JOHN C. LINEHAN, CONCORD, N. H.,  
AND  
THOMAS HAMILTON MURRAY, BOSTON, MASS.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN-IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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**FROM**  
**T. H. MURRAY,**  
**Secretary-General,**  
**AMERICAN-IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY,**  
**34 Newbury Street,**  
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**PUBLICATION**  
  
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## EARLY IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS.

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IRISH schoolmasters were numerous in the American Colonies long before the Revolution. For generations they imparted tuition and had the satisfaction of seeing great numbers of their pupils attain positions of eminence.

Many of the leading patriots of the Revolution were educated by Irish teachers, and regarded their instructors with respect and affection. Lossing, speaking of Rev. Dr. Alison, who was one of these Irish educators, says: "His chief claim to honor among men is that he was the tutor of a large number of Americans who were conspicuous actors in the events of the revolution that accomplished the independence of the United States."

In 1640, William Collins accompanied a party of refugees from the West Indies to what is now New Haven, Conn. After a time, these refugees dispersed in various directions and "some returned to Ireland." Collins taught school at Hartford for a period. There is very little doubt that he was Irish. A brief reference to him is made in Felt's "Ecclesiastical History of New England." He had rela-



tions with "the Bay," and like other honest thinkers got into trouble with the Boston church. As a result, he was banished with Anne Hutchinson's party, and took up his residence on Aquidneck or the island of Rhode Island. Anne Hutchinson had two daughters—Faith and Bridget. Collins wedded the former. About 1642, the family left Rhode Island and located in territory under Dutch jurisdiction, where Mrs. Hutchinson, her son, and her son-in-law (Collins) were killed by the Indians.

Thomas Dongan, son of an Irish baronet, was appointed governor of New York in 1683. He was a wise, humane and just man and did much to encourage education. During his administration a Catholic college was opened in New York, by two or three Catholic clergymen, with an admirable course of studies. Many other Catholic teachers, of Irish and other nationalities, are heard from in Colonial days.

Peter Pelham started a school in Boston as early as 1734. He was one of the Protestants who founded the Charitable Irish Society of that city and is described as "of the Irish Nation residing in Boston." In 1737 an application to the selectmen appears from him for "Liberty to open a School in this Town for the Education of Children in Reading, Writing, Needle-work, Dancing and the Art of Painting upon Glass, etc." His application was granted.

Robert Alexander, with his brothers Archibald and William, came here from Ireland about 1736, and may justly be considered the founder of Washington and Lee University, Virginia. Robert started a school in 1749 which was known as Augusta Academy until 1776; from the latter year until 1798 it was called Liberty Hall Academy; from 1798 to 1813 it was styled Washington Academy; from 1813 to 1871 it was Washington College, and in 1871 it received its present title — Washington and Lee University. This was the institution to which, in 1826, John Robinson, an Irishman who had served under Washington and had become a trustee of the College, bequeathed his estate valued at \$46,500. At a later period, Mrs. Caroline Donovan, of Baltimore, left the institution a legacy of \$10,000.

Wall, an Irishman, was the first teacher in the school established by Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk Valley. Johnson was born in Meath county, Ireland, in 1715. He treated the Indians kindly and honestly, was adopted into the Mohawk tribe and was made a sachem. In 1755, at a council of governors convened by Braddock, Johnson was designated as "sole superintendent of the Six Nations."

Rev. Francis Alison, D. D., already mentioned, was born in Donegal, Ire., 1705. He came to



America in 1735 and taught in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and elsewhere. In 1752 he took charge of an educational institution in Philadelphia, Pa., and became Vice-Provost and Professor of Moral Philosophy in the College of Pennsylvania in 1755.

Charles Thomson, an Irishman, was born in 1729. He came to this country with his three sisters in 1741 and was educated by the distinguished Rev. Dr. Alison. Thomson became a teacher in Philadelphia and at the Friends' school at New Castle, Del. He was permanent secretary of the Continental Congress, and was a sterling patriot. The Indians had great admiration for Thomson and referred to him as "one who speaks the truth." When Franklin wrote him that "The sun of liberty is set, the Americans must light the lamps of industry and economy," Thomson replied, "Be assured that we shall light torches of a very different sort." He was an excellent classical scholar. At the age of forty-five, he wedded an aunt of President Harrison.

Rev. Samuel Finley, D. D., who became President of the College of New Jersey, 1761, was an Irishman, a native of Armagh, born in 1715. He came with his parents to America in 1734, and later established an academy at Nottingham, Md., which soon obtained a great reputation for the excellence of the instruction given. Dr. Sprague declared of Finley that "he was an accomplished

teacher, and among his pupils were some of the very best scholars of the day. He boarded most of them in his own house and at his table." Under President Finley, the College of New Jersey made rapid progress.

The Irish Tennents were a family of distinguished educators. Rev. William Tennent, Sr., came to America in 1716 with his two sons, Gilbert and William. The father established, at Neshaminy, Pa., about 1726, the famous Log College, which is held by some to have been the germ of the College of New Jersey. When the latter institution needed help, about 1754, Rev. Gilbert Tennent was one of two sent abroad to solicit aid. He visited England, Scotland and Ireland, and was hospitably entertained by the Irish Presbyterian Synod. Gilbert was a native of Armagh, in Ireland. In 1740-41, as a Presbyterian, he travelled on a missionary tour through New England.

Rev. Samuel Blair, an Irishman, established a classical and theological school at Fagg's Manor, Pa., about 1740. With the assistance of his brother, Rev. John Blair, he succeeded in obtaining for the institution widespread recognition. John, the brother, was later chosen President of the College of New Jersey, but declined to accept the position. Rev. Samuel Blair, Jr., son of Samuel who established the school at Fagg's Manor, was a tutor in



the College of New Jersey, 1761-64, and was later connected with the Old South Church, Boston, Mass.

Robert Patterson, born in Ireland in 1743, came to this country in 1768 and was employed as a teacher, becoming principal of an academy at Wilmington, Del. At the outbreak of the Revolution he became military instructor to the patriots, and in 1779 was made Professor of Mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania. He was the fourth director of the United States mint. Sampson Smith "from Ireland" arrived in Pennsylvania as early as 1750 and conducted an academy which graduated some very able men.

Hugh Stevenson, "from Ireland," opened a grammar school, in 1739 or 1740, at Philadelphia, Pa. James Waddel, a native of Newry, Ireland, was born in 1739 and brought to this country while an infant. In after life he taught school at Nottingham, Md., and Pequea, Pa. He was a very proficient teacher, especially in the classics. Rev. Alexander McDowell, an Irishman, is heard from in Pennsylvania before 1754. He was an able teacher. Robert Cooper, an Irish Presbyterian clergyman, was born in 1732. For thirty-one years he was pastor of a church near Shippensburg, Pa., and at one time conducted a school there.

Robert Marshall, born in Ireland, 1760, enlisted

in the patriot army of the Revolution, at the age of sixteen. He had resided in Western Pennsylvania. After the war he opened a classical school in Kentucky, "at which many received their education who afterward made a very prominent figure in the world." Another Irish teacher was Joseph Campbell who became a Presbyterian minister. Born in 1776, he came to America in 1797, and for some years had charge of a school at Cranbury, N. J. In 1801 he established an English and classical school at Princeton.

Michael Walsh, born in Ireland, 1763, came to this country while still a young man. About 1792 he was made a teacher in an academy at Marblehead, Mass. Among his pupils was Joseph Story, who subsequently became a judge of the United States Supreme Court. Walsh was the author, in 1801, of a *Mercantile Arithmetic*, and some years later, of a "New System of Book-keeping." Harvard conferred a degree upon him.

Robert Adrain, an Irishman, was another prominent American educator. He was born in Carrickfergus, Sept. 30, 1775. He became a member of the Society of United Irishmen and participated in the Irish revolt of 1798. He was a school-teacher in his sixteenth year. In the outbreak of 1798, just mentioned, Adrain had command of a company, and the English offered a reward of £50 for his capture.

He escaped, however, and came to the United States. He taught in an academy located at Princeton, N. J.; became principal of York County Academy, Pa.; had charge of an academy in Reading, Pa.; was made Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in what is now Rutgers College; became professor of the same branches in Columbia College, New York, and was later Vice-Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

Robert Oliver, a talented Irishman, established in Baltimore the Hibernian Free School, a well-known institution.

The foregoing are but a few of the host of educators Ireland gave this country in the days gone by. This brief review of a most interesting subject will serve as an introduction to the following two papers.

T. H. MURRAY.

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 1, 1898.



## THE IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY JOHN C. LINEHAN.

IN the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for 1853, a generous tribute is paid the Irish schoolmasters who were teaching in New England before the Revolution. The occasion was an article on the life of the father of Gen. John Sullivan, which said: "Many aged people of the present day in New Hampshire will remember the stories told by their fathers of the old Irish schoolmasters. They were almost always of good families at home, were well educated, and men of enterprise."

But little is known of most of these men who were so highly spoken of nearly half a century ago (it is well to notice they were not then called "Scotch-Irish"), and a brief sketch of some of the few whose names appear in the New Hampshire State records will be of interest.

Patrick Guinlan was teaching school in the town of Concord long before the Revolution, but little is known of him beyond the bare mention of his name in Bouton's history of Concord. Of how he came there, how long he remained, or where he went, there is no record. The name may have been Quinlan, for that is quite common, while the former name is unknown; correct spelling in those days,



even among town officers, did not always prevail, and Irish names, especially, suffered in consequence.

A contemporary of Guinlan was Patrick Garvin, for whom Garvin's Fall, on the Merrimack, just south of Concord, is named. In the town of Somersworth, which is situated on the Maine border, Hercules Mooney was teaching school in 1734. His given name indicates at least a knowledge of Grecian history on the part of those bestowing the name on this exile of Erin, who left his native land over a hundred and seventy-five years ago. His descendants are numerous, and live mainly in the eastern part of the State where they are among the most substantial of the old stock.

Nearly half a century later, Col. Hercules Mooney had command of one of the New Hampshire regiments in the Continental Army. It has been thought that he was a son of the schoolmaster. The opinion is now generally entertained, however, that he was the schoolmaster himself, then an old man, but well preserved and a sturdy officer.

The records of the town of Somersworth, in 1737, have an entry to the effect that the Selectmen had engaged Mr. John Sullivan to teach school and to take care of the meeting-house for a year. What a situation for the descendant of one of the most ancient as well as one of the most valiant families in Europe, with the blood of the Gael, the Norman

and the Saxon in his veins, and destined to become the father of a major-general in the Continental Army, as well as of two governors, and the ancestor of men distinguished in professional, political, and mercantile circles in New England for nearly a century after the Revolution!

John Sullivan taught school for over half a century. His grave and that of his wife, Margery Brown, are beside that of his distinguished son, Gen. John Sullivan, a little more than a stone's throw from the monument marking the site of the meeting-house at Durham, N. H., in whose basement was stored the powder captured at New Castle, in December, 1774. One of John Sullivan's sons led the expedition, and another, Eben, participated in it.

Capt. Henry Parkinson, a soldier of the Revolution and quartermaster of a regiment at Bennington, Vt., was born in Ireland. He died in Canterbury, N. H., in 1820, and his body was buried in the cemetery at the "Centre." The epitaph on his tombstone was written in Latin by himself. The translation reads, in part, as follows: "Hibernia begot me; Columbia nurtured me; Nassau Hall educated me. I have fought, I have taught, and I have labored with my hands." He had been a teacher in the town and its vicinity for many years.



The Rev. John McDonnell, formerly of Haverhill, Mass., but later pastor in Penacook, N. H., on hearing the epitaph read, said at once that it was the inscription on Virgil's tomb, with the exception of the transposition of the words necessary to adapt it to its new place, and that it was written by the poet himself. The great Italian little dreamt that his composition would be read centuries afterwards on a stone marking the last resting-place of an Irish emigrant in a cemetery situated in a country village in one of the most northern of the United States.

William Donovan, an "Irish schoolmaster," kept a grammar school in the town of Weare, in 1773. He was reputed to be a fine scholar, excellently versed in the classics, and is well spoken of in the State records. He removed later to New Boston where he followed his profession. One of his pupils in Latin was Judge Jeremiah Smith, in his day one of the most eminent men in the State and one of its governors, and, like Donovan, of Irish parentage. Judge Jeremiah Smith, one of his sons, is at present professor of law at Harvard College.

An entry is made in the records of the town of Exeter of the payment of fifty pounds to Humphrey Sullivan, at some period before the Revolution, for his services as a schoolteacher. Little is known of this Sullivan save the bare mention of his name;

but there were, in those days, quite a number of representatives of this old Munster clan in New Hampshire. Valentine Sullivan, who fought with the Provincials in the Indian wars, was killed in one of the Revolutionary battles, after a life of almost continuous military service.

Maurice Lynch, a native of Galway, Ireland, was one of the first settlers in the town of Antrim. There is a tradition that he was educated at St. Omer's. He was an energetic man, taught school, was a surveyor of land, and the first clerk of the town. He wrote a fine hand, and to this day the records made by him are shown with pride by the people of Antrim. This town derives its name from Antrim, Ireland, and is the home of Ex-Gov. D. H. Goodell.

Tobias Butler, who also came from Galway with Lynch, was, like him, educated at St. Omer's. Both, so the records read, were Catholics. Butler also taught school and was one of the useful citizens of the settlement. The first arrival in Antrim was an Irishman, Philip Riley. He came from Massachusetts in 1744, and built the first house in the town. Two years later his son, Major Riley, was a well-known citizen of Antrim.

Edward Fitzgerald, an Irishman, was in Boscawen in 1734. Like Lynch and Butler, he was well educated, and Coffin, the town historian (the well-



known "Carleton" of the *Boston Journal*), credits him with being one of the most active and influential men in the settlement. He, it is also said, used his educational acquirements to instruct the rising generation. Descendants of his are still in the town, but the name has become either Fitz or Gerald. There is a tradition that the Blackwater River, a tributary of the Merrimack, was named by him, after the river of that name in Ireland.

Edward Evans who came from the county of Sligo, Ireland, was engaged in the same occupation as Henry Parkinson, and was his contemporary. He was also a soldier in the Continental army. Daniel Webster, it is stated, was one of his pupils. His school was located in Northfield, a town adjoining Canterbury. To these two Hibernians many persons who later became famous in New Hampshire annals went to polish up their English, or to acquire a knowledge of the classics. Edward Evans is put down in the history of the town of Salisbury as a native of Sligo, Ireland. In Gen. Sullivan he found a warm friend. For a time he was his secretary, and through his favor was commissioned adjutant of the second New Hampshire regiment of the Continental army. That he was a man of superior parts and of a genial disposition is evident from what has been written about him.

Benjamin Giles, one of the first settlers of New-

port, and for years its most influential resident, was a native of Ireland. He came to Newport from Massachusetts. He was a well educated man and teacher. During the Revolution he was, without exception, the most active man in the town; and during the Vermont controversy, which at the time created no end of trouble, he was one of the moving spirits. He is highly spoken of in the State records.

Darby Kelly is described by one of his descendants as a "bright, quick-witted Irishman." He came here to New Hampshire early in the eighteenth century, locating in Exeter, where his name can be found on the list of rate-payers of the town. School-teaching and fighting the French and Indians kept him busy. His son, Samuel Kelly, was one of the first settlers of the town of New Hampton. One of his descendants is the wife of Hon. Joseph H. Walker, of Worcester, Mass., who now owns the homestead farm in New Hampton. The name is borne by many Americans in the State, a very large proportion of whom are sprung from "bright, witty Darby."

Among them was Capt. Warren M. Kelly, who commanded a company in Donohoe's 10th New Hampshire regiment in the Civil War; and Gen. Benjamin F. Kelly, of West Virginia, who raised the first Union regiment, and won the first Union



victory south of Mason and Dixon's line. Both were born in New Hampton. Captain Kelly, it is said, commanded the first white troops entering Richmond after its fall.

William McNeil was one of the first settlers of New Boston, — an educated man and a school-teacher; so here in New Hampshire, as early as the first quarter of the eighteenth century, were representatives of two of the greatest Irish clans, — the O'Neils of the north, and the O'Sullivans of the south, of Ireland, engaged in the laudable occupation of instilling knowledge into the heads of many who afterwards became famous in the history of New Hampshire; Gen. John Sullivan, for instance, in the Revolutionary War, and Gen. John McNeil in the War of 1812.

The names given are doubtless but a few of those of Irish nationality, who followed the same occupation in days long gone by, but who are now forgotten. Yet how much credit does the land of their birth or of their ancestors receive from modern historical writers, for what they have done? If the members of the American-Irish Historical Society will only take hold of work like that indicated in this article, in each State, they will render a great service.

Few of the early settlers of New Hampshire were of nobler descent than the Sullivans of whom the

General was one. The founder of the American branch of the family was born on the 17th of June, 1690, and died on June 20, 1795, at the age of one hundred and five years and three days. He was always very reticent about his origin, saying nothing about it, which was natural for a man of fallen fortune. Some years after the death of his distinguished son, Gen. John Sullivan, and when nearly a hundred years old, at the earnest request of the General's widow, he wrote the following sketch of himself:—

“I am the son of Major Philip O'Sullivan, of Ardee, in the county of Kerry. His father was Owen O'Sullivan, original descendant from the second son of Daniel O'Sullivan, called the lord of Beare Haven. He married Mary, daughter of Col. Owen McSweeney, of Muskerry, and sister of Capt. Edward McSweeney, a noted man for anecdotes and witty sayings. I have heard that my father had four countesses for his mother and grandmothers. How true it was, or who they were, I know not.

“My father died of an ulcer raised on his breast, occasioned by a wound he received in France in a duel with a French officer. They were all a short-lived family. They either died in their bloom, or went out of the country. I never heard that any of the men kind arrived at sixty, and do not remember but one alive when I left home. My



mother's name was Joan McCarthy, daughter of Dermod McCarthy, of Killowen. She had three brothers and one sister. Her mother's name I forget, but she was the daughter to McCarthy Reagh, of Carberry. Her oldest brother, Col. Florence, alias McFinnen, and his two brothers, Capt. Charles and Capt. Owen, went in the defence of the nation against Orange. Owen was killed in the battle of Aughrim. Florence had a son who retains the title of McFinnen. Charles, I just remember; he left two sons, Derby and Owen.

"Derby married with Ellena Sullivan of the Sullivans of Bannane. His brother married Honora Mahony, daughter of Dennis Mahony of Dromore, in the barony of Dunkerron, and also died in the prime of life much lamented. They were short-lived on both sides, but the brevity of their lives, to my great grief and sorrow, is added to the length of mine. My mother's sister was married to Dermod, eldest son of Daniel O'Sullivan, Lord of Dunkerron. Her son Cornelius was with the Pretender in Scotland, in the year 1745. This is all I can say about my origin. . . ."

Very singularly a confirmation of this statement came in 1796, in the shape of an inquiry from Ardee, Ireland, addressed to Gen. John Sullivan, after the death of both father and son. This man, the schoolmaster, taught the youth of New Hamp-

shire for over fifty years. He could read Latin and Greek fluently until the time he reached one hundred years of life.

He was the father of a governor of New Hampshire and of a governor of Massachusetts, of an attorney-general of New Hampshire and of Massachusetts, of New Hampshire's only major-general in the Continental army, of the first judge appointed by Washington in New Hampshire, of four sons who were commissioned officers in the Continental army; grandfather of an attorney-general of New Hampshire, of a governor of Maine, and of a United States senator from New Hampshire; great-grandfather of an attorney-general of New Hampshire; great-great-grandfather of a commissioned officer in the Thirteenth New Hampshire regiment in the Civil War, and the ancestor of others of the most useful as well as eminent people in New England.

His son John, then holding the rank of major in the Provincial militia, committed the first overt act against the British Crown in the War of Independence, by leading a body of men against Fort William and Mary at New Castle, and in open daylight hauling down the English flag and capturing over one hundred barrels of powder, the greater part of which was used six months later at Bunker Hill.

With illustrations like this, Americans of Irish origin can well feel proud of the record made in New Hampshire over a century ago by the exiles from the land of their fathers.

CONCORD, N. H., June 30, 1898.

NOTE. Colonel Linehan's discoveries regarding Hercules Mooney, mentioned herein, have drawn forth very pleasant congratulatory letters from some of Mr. Mooney's descendants, including Benj. Hercules Mooney, of Rochester, N. H., and Mrs. Sophia Mooney Pond, of Pelham Manor, N. Y.

EARLY IRISH SCHOOLMASTERS OF RHODE  
ISLAND.

BY THOMAS HAMILTON MURRAY.

THE advent of George Berkeley, the Kilkenny scholar, caused quite a stir in educational circles throughout the American colonies. He came to Newport, R. I., in 1729, purchased a farm of ninety-six acres in that vicinity and called his residence "Whitehall." He desired to establish a college in Bermuda for the education of clergymen who would devote themselves to the civilization of the red man, and located in Rhode Island to await promised funds from abroad. It is also believed that while here he wished to interest leading Colonists in the project. Previous to his arrival in Rhode Island he had been made Dean of Derry (Anglican), and later became Anglican bishop of Cloyne. Berkeley was a native of Kilkenny county, and was born in 1684. He was accompanied to Newport in 1729 by his wife and several friends.

The people of Rhode Island recognized in the talented Irishman a master mind, and immediately conceded him the intellectual leadership of the colony. He often visited the Updikes and other prominent families in old Narragansett. During one of these visits he declared that if the promised



funds for his college ever arrived, he would locate the institution on Barber's Heights, North Kingstown, R. I., instead of in Bermuda. The influence transmitted by Berkeley, says W. E. Foster, of Providence, "may be traced through the widely separated fields of literature, painting, architecture, science and education." It was while a resident of Newport that Berkeley wrote his famous poem, "On the Prospect of Planting Arts and Learning in America." After waiting nearly three years in Rhode Island for the expected funds which never arrived, he sorrowfully abandoned the college enterprise and returned to Ireland in the autumn of 1731. He donated to Yale "the finest collection of books that ever came into America," and also gave liberally to Harvard. A recent writer says of Berkeley that Rhode Island "still acknowledges that, by his visit, it has been touched with the halo of a great and sacred reputation."

Rev. James McSparran, who, like Dean Berkeley, was a native of Ireland, is another grand figure in Rhode Island history. He became pastor of St. Paul's Church (Episcopal) in Narragansett, 1721, and continued to occupy the position until his death, in 1757. McSparran taught many pupils at his home, imparting a knowledge of the Greek and Latin classics and various other branches. Writing, in 1752, he says: "Mr. Thomas Clap, presi-

dent of Yale College, was my scholar when I came first to these parts, and on all occasions gratefully acknowledges his receiving the first rudiments of his learning from me, who, by the way, have but a modicum to boast of myself."

Rev. Dr. Alison, the eminent Irish educator already referred to in this pamphlet, was in Newport about 1755 and resided there for a time. Rev. Ezra Stiles, afterward president of Yale College, was then living in Newport, and he and Dr. Alison became intimate friends. Stiles describes the learned Irishman as "the greatest classical scholar in America, especially in Greek." It is not known that Alison taught in Newport; his stay was probably too short.

Stephen Jackson, born in Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1700, was the founder of a distinguished Rhode Island family. He is believed to have arrived in this country about 1724, and is thought to have left the Old Land to escape political persecution. In 1745 he was a resident of Providence, where he is mentioned in the records as a "schoolmaster." One of his descendants, Charles Jackson, became governor of Rhode Island.

Rev. Marmaduke Brown, an Irishman, while rector of Trinity Church, Newport, opened a school. Under date of Jan. 9, 1763, he writes that he has inaugurated it for the instruction of negro children,



to consist of fifteen of each sex, and that it is to be under his inspection. He trusts it will answer the intentions of the charitable persons concerned in it.

One of the earliest Irish schoolmasters in Rhode Island was Old Master Kelly. He taught at Tower Hill, South Kingstown, for a great many years; just how many is not certain. Commodore Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, was born in 1785, and when a boy was one of Master Kelly's pupils. But it is said that even then Kelly had already taught three generations of the youth of the neighborhood.

In the Narragansett Historical Register, editor James N. Arnold says: "Master Kelly was an Irishman and noted for his love of a good joke, a good dinner, and his courtesy of manner." Anecdote and reminiscence of Mr. Kelly are still numerous among the old families in that part of the State. "It is recorded of the worthy pedagogue, that during the whole of his long servitude at Tower Hill, he had never once been known to lose his temper, but ever preserved a blessed equanimity, to be envied by all of his arduous and important calling."

In Cole's History of Washington and Kent Counties, R. I., it is stated that "before 1800, Masters Crocker and Knox, natives of Ireland, taught school at Bowen's Hill and vicinity." Bowen's Hill is in Coventry. The name Knox is found in that town as early as 1766. The marriage



of Thomas Knox is recorded in 1768. Perhaps the schoolmaster was there at that period.

John Dorrance, "of Irish parentage," was at one time a tutor in Rhode Island College (now Brown University), and later a member of the corporation. He served in both branches of the General Assembly, was president of the Providence town council for sixteen years, justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and occupied other positions of honor.

The following legal notice appears in the Providence *Gazette*, Feb. 7, 1789: "Know ye, that Terence Reily, of Providence, schoolmaster, on the twenty-fifth day of December, 1788, at my house at Smithfield, lodged with me the sum £357 6s.," etc. This was in payment of a sum due by Master Reily to Joseph Arnold in connection with a mortgage. In the Providence *Gazette*, Oct. 18, 1800, is found this advertisement: —

PRIVATE SCHOOL. The subscriber hereby informs his friends, and the public in general, that he still continues his school at his own house, a little westward of the Great Bridge, where he teaches reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, etc., and that he shall on Monday the 20th inst., open an evening school. . . .

TERENCE REILY.

PROVIDENCE, OCT. 18, 1800.

John Phelan was another old-time Providence schoolmaster. He has a card in the *Gazette*, Nov. 10, 1792, which reads as follows:—

EVENING SCHOOL. An evening school will be opened by the Subscriber on the 12th inst., at the School House on the west side of the Bridge, where he now keeps his Day School, and where will be taught Reading, English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic in all its various Parts, Geometry, Trigonometry,—plane and spherical, Navigation, Surveying, Book-keeping after the Italian manner, and several other branches of the mathematics. He flatters himself, from his assiduous Attention to the duties of his School, to merit the Approbation of those who will please to favour him with the Tuition of their Children. JOHN PHELAN.

PROVIDENCE, Nov. 8, 1792.

Rev. James Wilson is another Irishman who attained fame as a schoolmaster in Providence. He visited the latter place in 1791, and eventually became pastor of the "Round Top" church. He remained with the church until his death, a period altogether of over forty-eight years. In July, 1800, he was appointed by the town council as master of one of the first four free schools established in Providence. Soon after he was voted two assistants.

Looking over the line of Irish schoolmasters in Rhode Island in the olden time, the thought occurs: How many prominent people there must be in the State whose parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents received their education from Irish teachers. Stored away in many a garret or forgotten nook, no doubt, are notes, letters, or other writings, bearing the signature of a Kelly, a Phelan, a Reily, a Knox, a Crocker, or of some other early educator of Irish birth. The originals of these, or copies, would prove of great value to the American-Irish Historical Society.

BOSTON, MASS., July 15, 1898.







